

Fresno, CA - Today, Congressman Jim Costa (CA-20) announced the availability of funds from the United States Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP). Grants are available to local fire departments to recruit, hire and retain qualified volunteer and career firefighters.

"All eligible Fire Departments should apply for these funds, which will greatly assist them in their role as facilitators of public safety," Congressman Costa said.

The grant available is for a program called "SAFER" Firefighter Hiring; the monies received will assist local fire departments in hiring additional firefighters. These funds will also aid recruitment and retention programs aimed at the volunteer fire service.

In the effort to support the hiring of firefighters a five-year grant will be awarded to fire departments to pay a portion of the salaries for newly hired firefighters. Departments will also be eligible to receive four-year grants that promote recruitment and retention programs, which help to maintain firefighting staff. Interested applicants should visit www.firegrantsupport.com or call the Department of Homeland Security Fire Grant Help Desk at (866)274-0960.

"There are many mandates by which state and local governments must abide and this is a great opportunity to receive funding assistance for such programs," Costa concluded.

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